

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 673

S E C R E T USUN 1959

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN PFOR EAID VN VS

SUBJ: SYG REQUEST FOR USG REACTION--ASSISTANCE TO
NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM

1. SUMMARY: SIR ROBERT JACKSON, ON INSTRUCTION OF
SYG, MET JUNE 6 WITH AMBASSADORS BENNETT AND FERGUSON
TO REQUEST REACTION OF USG TO PROPOSAL TO ASSIST
DISPOSAL UNEXPLODED MINES AND BOMBS IN NORTH AND SOUTH
VIETNAM. END SUMMARY.

2. SIR ROBERT INDICATED THAT AUBRAC (SPECIAL REP OF
SYG ON VIETNAM MATTERS) CONVEYED TO SYG THAT THERE
APPROXIMATELY 15,000 UNEXPLODED AERIALS BOMBS IN THE
HANOI AREA WHICH PRESENT GREAT RISK TO POPULATION. IN
ADDITION, THERE UNKNOWN QUANTITY OF UNEXPLODED EXPLOSIVE
DEVICES OF VARIOUS KINDS THROUGHOUT SOUTH VIETNAM.
JACKSON STATED THESE RANGE FROM OBVIOUS (AND PRESUMABLY
MAPPED) PERIMETER DEFENSES OF AIRFIELDS, DEPOTS, COMMAND
POSTS AND THE LIKE, TO UNMAPPED EXPLOSIVES CONNECTED WITH
VARIOUS OPERATIONS.

3. JACKSON STATED THAT, FROM HIS MILITARY EXPERIENCE,
HE COULD CONTEMPLATE POSSIBLE USG RESPONSES RANGING
FROM (A) NO HELP AVAILABLE FROM USG; OR (B) MAPS OF
PERIMETER DEFENSE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH
UN; OR (C) CHARACTERISTICS OF CERTAIN UNCLASSIFIED
DEVICES AND "DELOUSING" INSTRUCTIONS COULD BE

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TRANSMITTED; AND/OR (D) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN

DEACTIVATING OF EXPLOSIVE DEVICES RENDERED.
SIR ROBERT POINTED OUT OBVIOUS PROBLEMS OF DEALING
WITH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN SOUTH VIETNAM DUE
TO PRESENCE UNEXPLODED DEVICES.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE REACTION TO BE CONVEYED TO
SYG THROUGH SIR ROBERT.
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